

FIRST LOAD OF WHEAT was brought in by Harvey Neitzel who points toward the land where the wheat was harvested. Lex Landenberger, Wheeler Equity, uses the probe to test the wheat.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Storm hits Cheyenne County

By Karen Krien

It was cloudy and cool all weekend but on Saturday, the clouds began to build and boil. The National Weather Service station was forecasting tornado warnings for Cheyenne County and Gary Rogers, emergency manager, said spotters had seen a tornado.

Clarence Roberson, 10 miles south of Wheeler, reported 2 inches of rain fell in around 15 minutes. It was accompanied by terrific wind and some hail. It took out a field of soybeans and damaged a field of corn but Mr. Roberson said it was too early to know what the real damage is. There was a small outbuilding that was picked up and dropped it down about a 100 feet from where it once stood.

At the Charlie Nipps farm, 11 miles south of Wheeler, two big trees were taken out by the storm. The bean plant, also in that area, now has a big "wrinkle" at the top.

North of St. Francis, Tony Gienger said he received around .90 rain and Mark Keller, in the same vicinity, had about an inch.

Out west of town at the Spencer Schlepp farm, no rain was reported and they were able to harvest.

In St. Francis, Kathy Woodcox, weather observer, reported .43 inch of rain on Saturday. The rain fell in huge drops and the storm lasted only 20 minutes. Before the rain came, there was wind but there were no reports of damage.

However, Wheeler, just 5 miles east of St. Francis, received 1.80 inches rain. Eddie Dankenbring, 9 miles south of Wheeler, received 1.60 inches rain in just minutes. Earlier, Mr. Weeks had recorded 1.25 inches.

Dale Weeks, manager of Wheeler Equity, said he and the employees could feel the tornado going over them. The tornado took out a couple of windows at the top of the elevator but that was the only damage he could see.

West of Bird City, fields and ditches had water standing in them. However, rainfall amount within the city was less than an inch.

Don and Will Orten, Rod Young and Dave Hickert saw the storm from the Bressler-Young Field west of Bird City. Mr. Orten said it was interesting to see the tornado form and go southeast of the city. But, they didn't see it hit the ground at

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## Harvest begins — yields not too good

By Karen Krien

Harvest has been a little slower coming than originally expected, but, as expected, it hasn't been the best harvest. This is the fifth year that farmers have experienced drought which has resulted in poor to no wheat harvest.

Tim Burr, Equity manager, had thought that harvest would be started before June 19 but cool, damp temperatures had actually stopped any cutting.

The wheat has been very poor quality and poor yields," Manager Burr said.

He noted that thousands of wheat acres won't be cut this year because there isn't enough wheat in the field to pay for the cutting bill.

"It is a dismal time," he added. Test weights have been light and, now with the rain, the weeds are

coming on strong which is going to be an issue for farmers.

Every year, there is the phrase "Getting into the swing of harvest." This year, Manager Burr wondered if there would even be a "swing."

The wheat seems to be better in the north and west parts of the county but, as of Monday, it was still too early to tell.

Dale Hazuka at Frontier Equity Exchange in Bird City, said yields in that area vary from field to field. Some fields have decent yields at 20 to 22 bushels per acre while others have zero. He said some farmers were not even bothering to cut their fields.

Dale Weeks, Wheeler Equity manager, thinks harvest in the Wheeler area is about 75 percent over.

"It's hard to tell where we are at (in harvest) because of the fields

## First load arrives; contest is over

By Karen Krien

The Harvest Countdown contest ended on Wednesday, June 23, when Harvey Neitzel brought in the first load of wheat to the Wheeler Equity Coop elevator. The time was 3:18 p.m. and it was cut from a field just a couple miles

south of Wheeler and moisture content was 12.7 percent which, for the contest, the moisture content has to be 14 or below. It weighed 57 pounds per bushel.

Right behind Mr. Neitzel was Matt Smull who brought in his

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farmers have abandoned because there isn't enough wheat to cut," Mr. Weeks said.

He said yields have not been good — probably a lot of 9 to 10 bushel

per acre wheat. Weights have averaged 56 pounds. Mr. Weeks said 60 pounds is where wheat should be.

One farmer said this year was one

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## 21 counties qualify for CRP grazing

Cheyenne County is among 21 counties approved for the grazing of Conservation Reserve Program land. It should be noted that the program is limited to grazing only and does not permit haying.

"This authorization, requested by the Kansas Farm Service Agency, provides relief for many Kansas livestock producers who have suffered through severe drought conditions during the past 5 years," said

Bill Fuller, state director of the Kansas Farm Service Agency, said. "The drought has depleted hay supplies and affected the growth of hay and pasture in parts of Kansas."

In early June, Senator Pat Roberts and Congressman Jerry Moran wrote letters urging U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ann Veneman to release Crop Reserve Program acreage immediately for emergency

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## Junior Miss is crowned

By Karen Krien

Fourteen young ladies vied for the title of 2005 Cheyenne County Junior Miss on Saturday evening and Chelsey Weeden was deemed the winner. Chelsey will go on to represent the county at the state Junior Miss program on March 18 and 19 in Belleville.

First runner up was Ale' Tygart; second runner up was Amber Dunn and third runner up was Julie Voeller. Danielle McFarland was voted by the other candidates to receive the "Spirit of Junior Miss" award.

Vicki Cress, one of the coordinators for the program, said the girls and volunteers have spent time in the high school cafeteria because of the tornado warning.

"However, the young ladies put on a 'rip roarin'' country show," she said.

"The week just flew by and the girls gave it their all. According to the judges, the program ran very smoothly and quickly."

The evening began with Hayley Young, the 2004 Cheyenne County Junior Miss presenting the flag while Cristi Antholz sang the national anthem. Hayley also presented several other numbers during the program.

The contestants looked lovely in their long gowns as they answered the question, "What are your goals for the future and how do you expect to achieve them?"

Ale' won this category by answering the question saying she planned to attend college to pursue



2005 CHEYENNE COUNTY Junior Miss performed 'Me Like A Lady' for her talent number at Saturday's program.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## 15 residents receive papers to remove abandoned vehicles

By Sandy Barnhart

Chief of Police Troy Gardner reported that 15 residents had been served with copies of the ordinance pertaining to abandoned vehicles. The city's ordinance for abandoned vehicles states that citations be made to those with the cited vehicles and they will be summoned to appear in court.

The St. Francis City Council, at their June 22 meeting, asked that the procedure begin to eliminate these vehicles and letters be sent. Residents will have 30 days to either correct the problem or address the council.

Recycling center

Superintendent J.R. Landenberger reported that the fan for the recycling center was in and would be installed soon. The fan was bought with money received from a grant for concrete poured at the center and cost approximately \$1,500.

Susan Hobrock, Cheyenne County Development Coordinator, explained that the Bird City City Council had asked that she look into the cost of Bird City bringing their recycling items to St. Francis.

At previous meetings, Councilman Roger Jensen had estimated that the items Bird City brings to the center is approximately 20 percent

of the recycled items hauled to Colby. The council had agreed on a cost of \$220 a month or 20 percent of the costs incurred by St. Francis.

Mrs. Hobrock noted that Bird City has been weighing the loads before they are brought to St. Francis and felt that the estimated 20 percent was high. Once Mrs. Hobrock has gone through the figures she will report back to the Bird City Council.

Cheyenne County Development Coordinator

Mrs. Hobrock asked that the council appropriate the same

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## Board approves funding so work can begin soon

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Hospital Board was hoping that the proposal request they had received from Rhoads Construction, the general contractor for work on the hospital remodeling, would be a little less. After considering funds available and thoroughly discussing options, they made the approval so work could be done as quick as possible.

The proposal requests was for the additional work that will need to be done before the CAT scan can be installed in the X-ray room. Installing the equipment has been a major issue at the last two board meetings, coming from the idea of a truck being set at the east end of the hospital to finally deciding the equipment could be installed in the same room as the X-ray equipment.

Rhoads' proposal request came to \$47,773 which includes \$29,229 being designated to electrical work. Even though the amount was more than the cost of preparing for a trailer, it will be more convenient, functional and look better than a trailer at the east end of the hospital.

Administrator Les Lacy said that the mobile CAT-scan truck which comes to the hospital on a regular basis, was not able to keep the appointment the last time and, as a result, the hospital had lost \$11,000 in revenue. If this would happen very often, the cost of putting the equipment inside the hospital would soon be covered.

Traci Neitzel, board member, pointed out that the patient's discomfort and the risk to the patient is also important.

The board was concerned about other costs which might crop up unexpectedly. A review of potential issues and possible problems followed with board and administration agreeing that the allowances for contingency were sufficient.

Audit

Mark Hoffman with Grant Thornton, an independent auditing firm, presented the audit, noting that it was an "outside" audit and was fairly done. He spent an hour explaining and said he would be glad to answer any questions after the board had time to study it.

The audit report showed that the hospital had a loss of \$272,546 in 2003. This compares favorably with the 2002 loss of \$393,619.

Good month See FUNDING on Page 12A

# FUNDING

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The hospital had an outstanding revenue month for May with a profit of \$63,447.

"This is an usually high revenue month for us and, as much as we would like to duplicate this next month, I don't believe it will happen," Administrator Lacy said.

### Presenting the budget

Administrator Lacy and Mrs. Neitzel will attend a future commissioners' meeting to present the hospital's proposed budget for 2005.

He asked the board to consider starting a Professional Development Fund to help sponsor county students interested in pursuing careers in the medical field. Those students would be obligated to return to Cheyenne County to practice.

The proposed board budget for 2005 was approved by the board.

He said that Christina Blair had applied for help to train as a registered health information technologist. He recommended that the board approve funding of \$1,500 per year for two years.

Others receiving help are Kari Meyers, and Deb Harris.

### Hospital trees

Administrator Lacy asked about the removal of the two cedar trees on the east corners of the hospital. He said they were too close to the building and they would interfere with the gutters.

Rueben Schultz, board chairman, said he would like board members to look at them and make sure they wanted them cut down before they made the approval. He said that, yes, they were too close to the building but he also thought they added to the building. He also thought there would be some people upset because they were cutting these trees down.

Traci Neitzel, board member, thought that if the trees were taken out, it would be wise to have a plan for replanting/landscaping in the area. The matter was tabled until board members could look at the trees.

### In other business

### In other business:

• Chairman Schultz thought that it would be a good idea for the board members to refresh their knowledge and responsibilities. A special session will be held in the near future but it was noted that it will be advertised as a "public" meeting. Administrator Lacy asked that the board write down questions and concerns

### they might like to have addressed.

• Administrator Lacy reported that the hospital is not having trouble finding another physician — that there have been several willing candidates which they have not selected.

"We are looking for quality candidates who will work well with Dr. Miller and the community," he said.

### Closed session

The board went into closed session to discuss personnel with no decisions being made when they came out.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the board has been set for 7 p.m. on July 15 in the basement of the clinic in St. Francis.

# GRAZING

## Continued from Page 1A

damage to grazing and crop acreage." "The past five years of drought have placed a tremendous pressure on pastures, forcing some producers to sell livestock or move them out of state," Congressman Moran said. "Absent moisture, this is at least one step we can take to help our producers stay in business."

The twenty-one counties that have been approved for emergency grazing of

Conservation Reserve Program acreage are Cheyenne, Decatur, Finney, Gove, Graham, Greeley, Grant, Hamilton, Kearny, Lane, Logan, Norton, Rawlins, Scott, Sheridan, Sherman, Stanton, Thomas, Trego, Wichita, and Wallace. Grazing is allowed until Sept. 30. All livestock must be removed at the end of this grazing period.

"Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and Pheasants Forever provided support for early emergency grazing that minimizes the impact on wildlife," said Mr. Fuller. "In addition, we must recognize Senator Pat Roberts and Congressman Jerry Moran, along with the Kansas Livestock Association, Kansas State Technical Committee and Kansas Farm Service Agency State Committee for their support in achieving this endeavor to assist Kansas livestock producers."

Eligible counties are those designated as a "D3-Drought-Extreme" or "D4-Drought-Exceptional" level for drought as rated by the U.S. Drought Monitor. The drought monitor can be accessed on the Internet at [www.drought.unl.edu/dm/](http://www.drought.unl.edu/dm/). Conservation Reserve Program participants in approved counties shall contact the local Farm Service Agency county office to request emergency grazing. Participants will work with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop a forage management plan. Participants must also accept a 10 percent reduction in the annual rental payment for the acres actually grazed. This payment reduction is less than the normal 25 percent usually assessed for this type of authorization.

# CROWNED

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Barnhart, Amber Havel, Amy Nicklos, Amanda Jones and Megan Ford.

Chelsey is the daughter of Rod and Cara Weeden, St. Francis. Emcees for the evening were Shara Johnson and Penny Krien, both former Cheyenne County Junior Miss representatives. Judges were Robin Renzelman, Wray; Nancy Ryan, Clay Center; Jason Mathews, Benkelman; Sharon Gray, Sharon Springs; and Gloria Moore, Barnes. Scholastic judges were from Idalia School District.

Chelsey, when answering the "Self-Expression" question, said she planned to attend Kearney (University-Nebraska) to earn enough credits to study to be an optometrist in Dallas.

Chelsey also won the "Talent" award by singing "Treat Me Like A Lady" by Shad Shelton. The talent of the 14 girls entertained the audience with singing, humorous skits and dancing.

The "Fitness" presentation was the final part of the program before the judges retired. The third and fourth grade Dance Ranch students along with Kylie Dixon, the 2004 Rawlins County Junior Miss, entertained during the intermission. Then the audience enjoyed punch and cookies in the cafeteria before returning to the auditorium for the rest of the program.

Others participating in the 2005 Junior Miss program besides those mentioned above included: Emily Walz, who earned the "Be Your Best Self" award; Jennifer Austin, Tiffany Miller, Kali Rueb, Brandi

# STORM

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any time.

### Report damage

Manager Rogers asks that anyone having damage caused by wind, tornado or hail to please contact him. The damage amounts are totalled for Kansas and, if enough are reported, Kansas could receive disaster money.

Also, when storms occur, the staff at the Herald and Times would appreciate being notified so photos can be taken and stories about the storms written.

# FIRST

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first load to the St. Francis Equity at 3:21 p.m.

Two years ago, Mr. Neitzel and his brother Glen brought in the first load of wheat on June 18 and it was cut from the same field just north of the Neitzel farm where the land is fairly sandy.

Last year, he had come in second, just 5 minutes after Rodney Bracelin and his grandson Cade. The 2003 first load of wheat came into the Wheeler Equity at 3:40 p.m. on June 23.

### Harvest Countdown winner

Winning the contest was Dot Hill who had a guess of 3:10 p.m. on June 23 — just 8 minutes away from guessing the time exactly. She will take home \$50 in scrip. The second place winner was Bonnie Zwegardt winning \$35 scrip; and Mike Antholz's won \$15 scrip for his third place guess.

Mrs. Hill registered her guess at Pizza Hut; Mrs. Zwegardt's guess was from Super Foods and Mr. Antholz guess was at Windmill

The contest started June 3 and originally was suppose to have ended on June 23 but, because it looked like the wheat was going to be ready to cut any day, the boxes were picked up early.

Nine businesses sponsored the contest and winners may spend their scrip money in any of the following business: Burr Liquor, Krien Pharmacy, K-Store, Pizza Hut, Stevens' Kansas Territorial, St. Francis Equity, Super Foods, The Saint Francis Herald and Windmill Restaurant.



# VEHICLES

## Continued from Page 1A

amount, \$5,000, to the city's budget for the Development Corporation for 2005. She also presented to the council the Development Corporation's 2004 budget.

Mrs. Hobrock informed the council that she was stepping down as coordinator but planned on helping to train the next coordinator.

### Police report

Chief Gardner reported that officer Tom Raile had finished the academy and Sarah Smith is scheduled to attend two-weeks training in Hutchinson as a part-time officer.

The council approved a compensation time plan in which an officer will be allowed to use overtime to take time off at another time. Reimbursement of time taken off will be 1.5 hours to every 1 hour worked overtime.

### Pool report

The council reviewed and approved a petition signed by kids at the swimming pool for Superintendent Landenbergert to look into purchasing a basketball hoop for the pool area. The estimated cost is \$500

### Other business

In other business: • City Clerk Mary Lampe informed

the council that after the audit the workman's comp insurance raised \$8,816 which will bring the total cost to approximately \$52,000.

• A budget meeting has been set for 6 p.m. on July 6 before the regular meeting at the old city office building.

### Building permits

Building permits were approved for the following residents and businesses: Shawna Blanka, trailer house on North Street; Jack Weinstein, storage shed; Becky Roberson, pour concrete; Alvin Cox, run sidewalk; Kim Ritter, utility shed.

# YIELD

## Continued from Page 1A

of the worst years he and his family have experienced in all the years of harvesting wheat. He said that the wheat adjuster had been to his fields earlier and estimated that the wheat would only make 1.3 bushels an acre and it would cost at least \$15 or \$16 an acre for a harvester to cut the wheat — not worth cutting.

Fall will be here in a few months and if the rain continues, Mr. Weeks thinks there could be a fairly good harvest.

# ANNOUNCING —

# The winners of the 2004 Harvest Countdown \$50 in Scrip Money is Dot Hill

\$35 Second Place: Bonnie Zwegardt

\$15 Third Tie Place: Mike Antholz

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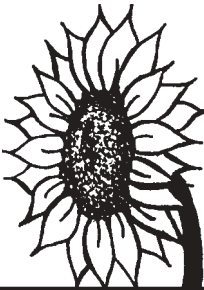
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